

Interview with Frederick Jewell
in North Eastham, Massachusetts

by Vivian and Ralph
Andrist
March 9, 1981

Q: This is an interview with Frederick Jewell. The interview is for the Oral History Project of the Eastham Historical Society. The date is March 9th, 1981 and we are interviewing Mr. Jewell in North Eastham, Massachusetts, and the interviewers are Vivian and Ralph Andrist of the Eastham Historical Society.

Mr. Jewell, I'd like to ask you first where and when you were born?

Mr. Jewell: I was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1897. The family first came to the United States in 1635. I have a book that tells about our arriving in Boston-- I forget the name of the ship, but the book was published in 1861 and includes my father, who was a baby at the time.

Q: What was his name?

Mr. Jewell: His name was Roland Congner Jewell.

Q: And where did he come from? What country?

Jewell: He was born in Albany, New York, where my grandfather, after whom I was named-- Frederick, I forget the middle name, Jewell was an Episcopal clergyman and educator, and he was conducting classes or something like that in Albany, New York, where my father was born.

The last time I made a trip West, on my way to Australia, I stopped over a few days in Evanston, Illinois and I went to the Episcopal Church, and afterwards I met a lady that knew my grandfather, which was a very unusual experience or occurrence.

Q: Was he a clergyman out there? Your grandfather?

Jewell: My grandfather was a clergyman at the Episcopal Church in Evanston, Illinois.

Q: Your father was born in Albany, New York.

Jewell: Yes.

Q: And then when did his family-- do you know when they left Albany and went out to Evanston?

Jewell: On the other side of my family, my mother's people, who were Bruce's and Harris's, they left Ohio in a covered wagon and founded a hotel of sorts in a place called Springville, Iowa, which is only a matter of fifteen or twenty miles from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where I was born. My mother, who was Lulu Marian Harris, was born there and she was a very early printer on a little paper called THE NEW ERA, which was published locally.

Eventually-- and I don't quite remember-- my father was an accountant by profession, and he was in Cedar Rapids and there met my mother, and they were married in 1895 or '96. And eventually we came to Chicago to live, and it was from Chicago that I went away to Marquette University in Milwaukee in 1917. And in 1918, at the end of my first college year, I joined the Navy and graduated from the Yeoman School just before the war ended. But I went to sea on a merchant vessel and we spent 1918 in Trieste, Austria.

After that, I came back to this country and went on a troop ship and we brought troops home from World War I, and one trip we were in Virginia. The name has slipped my mind, but I know at that time they had signs, "Sailors and Soldiers Keep Off the Grass". I went across to buy I forget the quantity of ice cream. On the following Fourth of July, coming home from Europe, we passed out ice cream to every boy on the ship coming home.

And after that the ship went out of commission and I came back to live in Chicago, Illinois. There I went to work for a man named Arnold Jerns, who had an advertising agency, and he was the first commander of our advertising post of the American Legion. And only a few days ago, I still am on their mailing list, to receive whatever they're up to or have going on. We had meetings at Mandel Brothers in Chicago every week.

After that I went to work for Montgomery Ward in Chicago on their catalogue, and I worked on the catalogue for a few months, and then after that I went to work for a direct advertising company. And only the other day I wrote a letter to the man I worked with to

find out if he was still around.

After that, I came back to New York University to specialize in advertising and it was while I was there that times were hard and my mother was sending me money. And I read an advertisement in the paper that they wanted a young man to go abroad. I answered the ad and found out that the man who had accepted the job to go to China decided he didn't want to go, and that they knew about me from something that I had previously done when I went to college in Milwaukee. I got the job to go to China. This was in 1921.

And I went out to China with the British-American Tobacco Company and I traveled over China for four years, putting on outdoor advertising signs and what have you for them, and I never smoked one of their products then or since.

I was while I was traveling in Manchuria and living in Mukden, I was receiving letters from a girl who I'd palled around with in New York at the end of the war. And I received a letter from her saying that she was getting married and our correspondence would have to cease. I wrote to her and asked if she knew another girl that would like to correspond with a young fellow that was traveling around China. And it was when I was in Manchuria that I received the first letter from my wife, who was Grace Anderson of Mount Vernon, New York and who worked in the New York Public Library. I didn't actually meet her until almost four years later, when I came home from China on a trip around the world.

I went back to Chicago and shortly after that I decided that Chicago was no place for me, when my prospective wife was back in

New York.

It is also of interest to know that the first time I went to China I met a family on board, and I forgot all about them, but they came back to China on another trip and they looked me up, and I went to the Astor House Hotel and had lunch with them, and some of their friends wanted to know where they could have some pajamas made in a hurry. I took them up to on Nanking Road and they got their pajamas. The man said to me, "If you ever want a diamond, look us up in New York."

Well, after I got back to New York and got pretty well acquainted with my prospective wife, I took her down to this diamond firm in New York and we got a sixty one-hundredths of a diamond for less than half price from this diamond firm. And not too long after that we got married. That was in 1926.

At the same time, I was in professional Boy Scout work. When I got home from China, I didn't know what I wanted to do, and I had the opportunity to take one of the early training courses for Scout executives. And when I graduated from the course, they got me located down in Monmouth County, New Jersey, where I traveled for about two years in professional Boy Scout work.

About that time I was invited back to a luncheon in New York at a place called The Circumnavigators Club. You had to have made the trip around the world to belong to the club. At that club I met a man-- I've forgotten his name, but when he found out that I'd been back to China, the following Monday morning I received a

telephone call from the president of Harold F. Ritchie Company, asking me to come up to New York and see him. I went up to see him and I got a job to go back to China. We put our belongings in storage in Mount Vernon, New York and a few weeks later we were on a ship back to China, where we lived for the next-- that was in 1926-- and we were back in China until 1938.

During that time I traveled not only China, but the Philippine Islands, Siam and all of that part of the world, until the Japanese made it impossible for the company to carry on.

I might say that on one trip to the Philippines, the president of Harold F. Ritchie & Company passed on and I was transferred to London to the firm of J. C. Eno & Company, the makers of the well-known product, Eno's Fruit Salt, which was sold around the world. At that time, on a trip home in 1931, our daughter was born, and I carried her back to China in my arms. She will soon be fifty years old.

Back on the trip around the world, from London, where we spent a number of weeks, we had an opportunity to look up the history of our Jewell family and I actually visited the house where one of the early Jewell's had been born in, down in Barnstable County.

We went back to China on a Japanese boat, which is most interesting, and furthered our use of chopsticks and were interested in Japanese food. I also spent quite a bit of time in Japan on different visits.

Q: When was this, Mr. Jewell, that you went back to China the third time? Was it after the war or before?

Jewell: We went back the first time in 1928, and then we were back there again in 1931, when our daughter was born. And interestingly enough, we gave the shipping company enough business so that we had a very nice private cabin on the ship with an outside entrance, and we fared exceptionally well.

Another time, coming home, we were met in Seattle, and at that time the railroad company knew about us and we received exceptional service on the train back to Chicago.

After we came home the last time, when the Japanese stirred up the Second World War, in the meantime we had acquired a home in Windom, Connecticut, which is a little ways out of Willimantic, and it was one of the oldest houses there. And we stayed there for several years and I went to work for two or three places. Pratt & Whitney in Hartford, Connecticut, inspecting parts for engines, and later on I went to work for the Electric Boat Company, working on submarines. Then I was always watching for an opportunity to live and go abroad again, and one day I saw an advertisement in the New York Times for a man to go to South America. I had never been to South America, but I contacted the company in New York City and found that they needed a man to cover the Caribbean, and I got the job, working out of their Montreal office.

I spent the next two years covering Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, what is now Surinam and what is still French Guiana. And I made a great many friends down there.

Then, when my boss or employer had to go in to the armed forces, they brought me back to New York to look after the company, which I

did as good as I possibly could, until 1947, when the company wanted me to make a ten months trip around the world, visiting all their previous connections.

At that time we were living in Dobbs Ferry, New York. I recollect taking my wife and daughter to New York City for lunch, getting on a train, and that is when I made my first visit to Sidney, Australia, and then I came back up through China, the Philippines, and that part of the Far East, and then I went back through India and around the Mediterranean, and eventually ended up back in New York in time for Christmas.

After that, I made two more trips for them, including trips to all of Africa, but especially South Africa, and at that time I decided that-- the company wanted to make some changes and I decided that it was time for me to give up work. And in the meantime we had acquired this home on Cape Cod, which was built in 1795, so it's getting to be a very old house. And we have been there ever since, where I have engaged in various other occupations or activities.

Q: When did you move to the Cape? What year would that be?

Jewell: We came to the Cape in the summer of 1958.

Q: When had you first come?

Jewell: We first came-- I had been on a trip to Bermuda, and we had been wondering about where we might retire to, and the first time we came to the Cape was the year after Eastham celebrated its three hundredth anniversary. I think that was in 1951. We didn't

know anything about it at that time. We simply passed through Eastham and went up to South Wellfleet, where we had a cottage on the beach.

The next year, or two years, we decided that the Cape might be an interesting place to retire to and we came up again and had a man who had taken over Ralph Chase's business show us around.

Q: That's real estate?

Jewell: That was real estate. And he didn't do very much for us, and in the afternoon a real estate/^{man}whose name has slipped my mind, from Brewster, took us around and showed us our old house on what was then called-- at one time it was called the Old King's Highway. The new road hadn't been built through alongside of the Salt Pond. So we acquired this old house from a minister, whose name has slipped my mind. He retired to Florida, where no doubt he still is. And we came on and off until the summer of 1958, when we came for good.

Then I got mixed up in other things. I worked on the Summer Book for the first three years.

Q: What's the Summer Book?

Jewell: The one that comes out every summer.

Q: Oh, the Eastham Guide?

Jewell: The Eastham Guide or what have you. We had meetings at Richard Van Der May's house. Charlie Bagerello as one of the men that came there. The lady that gave us the house next to the post

office. That name has slipped my mind. [Verena Daley]. Was on the committee. And I think I served on that for three years.

Then I, for some reason or other, criticized Mrs. Campbell, who was a Trustee on the Library. I don't remember the details, but the next year I suggested that we put an addition on the Library and I made signs and put them up all over town, and at the next annual meeting they voted the money for the Library. And I became the chairman of the Library Trustees for the next four or five years.

After the Library was built, the new room was built on the back, I made a number of improvements. I had the stairway going downstairs changed. I had the back entrance built in. I started improving the basement, and had to do with the Library until I started wondering about a Historical Society. And I wrote a letter to the paper and had Ralph Chase and Otto Nickerson join in with me, because they were local people and I was an outsider, and we had a letter in the paper suggesting the Eastham Historical Society.

Q: What year was this?

Jewell: That was in 1963. We got that started all right. And then we needed funds, and Colonel Eugene Clark, who helped us with lectures-- I started the book sales. We collected books in the Library and then we collected books in the Library basement, and we had our early book sales. And then the question of the old schoolhouse came up for an historical museum, being across from the Cape Cod National Seashore. And Ralph Chase knew the lady that owned the old schoolhouse and I corresponded with her, and eventually

we acquired the old schoolhouse.

Ralph Chase and Captain Robert Sparrow and Bernard Collins advanced us I think it was eight thousand dollars to buy the building, which we eventually paid back. And all of us turned to to work on the building. It was in a pretty sad state of affairs. We cleaned it out. The Nickerson Lumber Company gave us shingles for the new roof. I forget who supplied the paint, but the first superintendent of the Cape Cod National Seashore, whose name has slipped my mind, came across to watch us painting one afternoon and he donated five dollars to the cause.

And the grounds were in a pretty sad state of affairs and we started cleaning them up. And then, there was an Eastham Society that-- mostly they come in the summertime, I forget their name. They contributed the money to buy the fencing we put around the place. And Colonel Clark gave us the whale jawbones that now stand in front of the museum.

Q: What was Colonel Clark's first name?

Jewell: Colonel Eugene Clark. We have lost him. He lived in Sandwich. He was very active on Cape Cod. He gave us quite a few lectures to raise money for the Society.

And then we moved the book sales over to the grounds of the Society and we did very well with the book sales over the years.

I became the first curator of the Society. And folks were a little suspicious of me when I came around, because they thought I was looking for things for the Society. I collected things far and

wide, and Kenny Collins and I went to Chatham and were able to buy the showcases now in the museum at a cheap price. And we moved those up and we set up the museum. I forget the exact date of the opening, but several hundred people were there. That was on a Sunday-- the time has slipped my mind-- but I served as curator for the first seven years. And then Mrs. Walker took over from me and she served for several years. And then Mrs. Brackett became the president of the Society. And Mrs.-- the house next to the post office--

Q: Verena Daley?

Jewell: Mrs. Daley asked me to come and see her some time, and I did this, and she said that she might like to give the house and premises to the Society. And I told Mrs. Brackett about it for the first time, and eventually we acquired it for the Society, and that has been in operation ever since.

Q: You mean you acquired the house?

Jewell: Acquired the house, yes. Acquired the house.

Q: Was that Isabel Brackett? Belle Brackett?

Jewell: Belle Brackett. She who used to be in the Town Hall and who I see periodically. She was the president of the Society at that time.

Q: Who was the first president?

Jewell: Kenny Collins.

Q: And when did Mrs. Lowe become active?

Jewell: Well, I've got information. I'll show you this in a minute. Mrs. Lowe was very much interested from the start of the Society, and eventually she wrote her first book, which we sold at the Society. And then I think she brought out a second addition, and I think some of them are still available, whether in the museum or from Mrs. Kattwinkel, who was active at that time.

I gave up going to the meetings, oh, several years ago, when Mr.-- he's moved to Virginia--

Q: Clarke?

Jewell: Mr. Clarke was responsible for putting my picture up in the entrance of the museum. Mr. Clarke was interested in things, but he was difficult in some spots. But he was very active, both him and his wife. And it was shortly after that that I decided that I'd reached the age where I should retire. Which I did.

Q: Would you like a glass of water, Mr. Jewell?

Jewell: No. No, I don't need any water.

Q: I'd like to ask you, what was the Cape like when you first came?

Jewell: The Cape was much-- did you see my letter in the paper about Route 6 a week or so ago?

Q: Yes.

Jewell: There'll be another one in the Oracle this week. I've

been writing letters to the papers for all these years I've been here, about this, that and everything else. Two or three of the letters, instead of being letters, they were put in the paper as articles, because I commented on the changes on Cape Cod. The increase in population, the coming of the Mid-Cape Highway. We used to-- when we first came, I think we used to have to use old 6-A. And then a little later they built the Mid-Cape as far as Hyannis roughly. And then they got it out to Orleans now and they're still squabbling about double-barreling it and when that'll come to pass, I don't know. And in Taxachusetts things are going from bad to worse. The Governor and the Lieutenant Governor don't get along, and the Mayor of Boston, he don't get along with them. He has his problems. And the people passed Proposition 2-1/2 because the officials elected or appointed were not doing their job right, and look at the mess we're in now. And where it's going to end, who knows where Proposition 2-1/2 is going to end?

Q: Tell me, when you first came, were the railroads still running out here?

Jewell: Oh, yes. When we first came, the actual railroad, it was still here, but it only brought troops. They had a camp or something up here, and in the summer they'd ride the troops up, while they were doing their things. And then eventually the railroad went out of business and eventually the track was taken up, and now the latest news is they don't know whether the railroad will even come back to Hyannis any more, because there's a squabble in that

category.

But this book is full of so many things, and this is the first of five albums that I have, and eventually I'll leave them to the Society.

Here, for instance-- I'll just touch on a few of these things. I've addressed this: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been asked to act as Temporary Chairman of this meeting, because I've been involved in the preparatory work for this meeting. Mrs. Joseph Putnam has kindly volunteered to act as Temporary Secretary."

But here is the first letter that I wrote to the Oracle and also the Cape Cod Times. "The Eastham Historical Society proposed, Eastham, Massachusetts." And this is the first letter I wrote, with my signature and that of Otto Nickerson and Ralph Chase, because, as I said before, they're natives and I was an immigrant from across the bridges. I won't bother to read that letter, but that is here.

Q: Excuse me. What year was that?

Jewell: '63. I wrote this letter January 18th, 1963. And I've got a few other things in here. For instance, I have an article here, "British Museum Began Modestly". And I've been in that museum a number of times and that was the way that is.

Then here there was an article in the Standard Times on February 8. "Desirable Move". And then here in "Cape Cod Chatter", in the Boston Sunday Herald of 1963, down here it said, "A group of Eastham residents are sounding their neighbours on the possibility of establishing an Eastham Historical Society." I say Hysterical

sometimes, because it was that. (LAUGHTER)

And here's a letter that I had from-- I don't know who Mrs. Lorris Kidd was, from Andover-- and she was delighted to know that we were starting a society.

Here was a letter from Donald Walworth. They're still around here. He was Acting Chief of Police, I think, up in Wellfleet recently.

I don't know why I put this in here. These are the people amongst folks that were early interested. Joseph Putnam, Sam Bartlett-- he's dead, Joseph Putnam's dead, Earl Cole is dead, Harvey Moore is dead. I don't recall Mrs. Sidney Adams. Mrs. Wallace Woodworth, she's dead. Mrs. Arthur Nickerson, she's still at 'em. Captain Sparrow is dead. Mr. Rongner is dead. Mrs. Macomber, she's still around.

Q: Could we ask you a little later on, if you want to, about these people? Because some of them are dead and nobody will remember them. And if you could sort of give a description of each person and what part they played. Like Ralph Chase, for instance.

Jewell: Well, this is an entirely different thing. Ralph-- I first met Ralph, having something to do with the Congregational and Soldiers' Cemetery. And I have been active in that ever since. Ralph and I went around-- well, in the first place, upstairs in the museum, upstairs in the museum, I think back in 1931 or thereabouts, when the Depression was on in this country, somebody made this plan of the cemetery. I think that's upstairs in the museum. I made a

copy of it. Then Ralph and I went around and set stakes in the ground where we could for the unsold lots, and we put up the sign in front of the cemetery every year. We took the sign down. I sold lots in the cemetery until last year. The cemetery, Dick Nickerson used to call me up and wanted to know where the lot was. I'd go up and show him where the people were to be buried. I was active in that cemetery.

Then I bought our lot, which is right on the front, and as I tell people, close by is-- oh dear, he was the Congregational minister that built the original part of our house, and he is buried so I can talk to him after I'm there. (LAUGHTER)

Anyway, so Ralph Chase and I were friends over the years.

Q: What kind of man was he?

Jewell: Well, let's see, he was ninety-one when he died, and he went through all sorts of things. Of course, the best thing he ever did was when he married Toku, because I had been in Japan enough times to know about Japan and what have you that that made Toku and I friends. And I guess she's still here, but she's going back to Japan for a visit. I guess pretty quick now, from what I hear.

Then one of the other-- Harvey Moore. Harvey Moore, who lived across the street from me, where the Fire Chief now lives-- Colonel Clark and I wanted to have Harvey tell us how he built Henry Beston's Outermost House. Now my wife and I went over to the beach the last time Henry Beston was down with his wife, and the Governor of Massachusetts was there at that time. And we had quite a time and

I've been corresponding with Mrs. Beston up until the last three or four years, and I'm going to see if I can find her again. He's buried on their property up in Nobleboro, Maine, and that's another thing that comes to mind.

Q: Well, Harvey Moore then was an old friend of your's?

Jewell: Oh, he lived across the street and he used to come to our house across the street and sit two or three times a week and talk with my wife, and that kind of upset her some, he was a permanent visitor. But he told her more things about Eastham and its past than we ever knew before, and I've forgotten all of those things. She has the memory.

Q: Does she remember?

Jewell: She remembers things, but ever since-- at one time, a few years ago, when the State made this a two-lane highway, I was going to Captain Sparrow's house and I stopped where I should, and cars were backing up in back of me, and I saw a car coming the other way and I went to turn in and that car glanced off me, and that upset my wife and she's had this nervous problem ever since. And she hasn't been off the premises in four years. She won't even take a ride over to the beach when her daughter comes. So that's the reason that-- and outside of a very few people that she knows very well, she likes them to come to the house once in a while, but otherwise-- that's another matter all together.

Q: Was Harvey Moore-- what kind of work did he do?

Jewell: Harvey Moore was a carpenter, and he built-- his house, which is across the street from us, where the Fire Chief now lives, that house used to set down Locust Road across the railroad tracks. And apparently Harvey Moore had that moved up, and, as I say, he was a carpenter. He put the windows in for us on our kitchen corner, where I move my office in the wintertime, where I have my typewriter, and where I close up my hobby room, so we don't have to heat it. The last oil bill was two hundred and sixty-seven dollars, because we have to burn kerosene in our old house, which is more expensive than oil.

But Harvey-- he had built Outermost House for Henry Beston, and he was-- oh, he was a most unusual man. His wife lived to be a hundred and one, and she was a Wellfleet girl. And his family took kind of a dim view of his marrying her, because she wasn't too up and coming and healthy, and she lived longer-- lived to be a hundred and one. And they had several children. One of them lives down on-- you know, some days I can't think of anything, I can't put the names on anything.

Q: You're doing very well here.

Jewell: Oh, but when you go to the past. See, the past comes out like nobody's business. Her husband shingled our house. Then there's another son.

TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

Jewell: There's another son that lives off the Cape some place. Somebody from there used to come down and see us once in a while,

but that's gone by too.

Harold Cole, he ran-- I didn't know too much about him. His wife used to be the Librarian when we first came, and he ran for Selectman, as I recall, once, and thought he had it in the bag, but it wasn't, and he got licked.

The Woodworth's used to own the Cottage Colony next to the Methodist Church. He's dead and gone. She's active in our Episcopal Church in Orleans. She still lives in Brewster. And their daughter, I remember the first time she came to school, when Otto ran the school. And she's married, she has children in California. I still hear from her at Christmas time.

And, of course, with Otto, the first time I came to the Cape, I had been showing moving pictures to the kids in Dobbs Ferry where we lived. And I have several letters from the principal, thanking me for introducing the school kids to the world. And when I came up here, I went up to school one day and Otto says, what can I do for you? I said, maybe I can do something for you. This was before we came for good. And I said, well, I'm showing moving pictures to the school children down in Dobbs Ferry. I says, I can get a moving picture now and again, or when I come up here once in the fall, to show moving pictures to the school children here.

So I did that for several years. Mrs. Handel was a teacher then, and I forget who the other teachers were, but we'd show a movie. And what's his name, the policeman, Nate Weaver, he was the janitor at the school then, and we'd go downstairs afterwards and I'd have lunch with the kids. And then when I came for good, I had moving

pictures for the school children nearly once a month, as long as Otto was principal, and I think he's been away from there twenty or twenty-two years, something like that.

Then the man that succeeded him, I took a dim view of him, and I eventually gave up showing moving pictures. The School Committee wanted me to keep on, but I'd had it as far as he was concerned. So that took care of that situation.

Q: Who's next on the list there?

Jewell: Let's see. Mrs. Arthur Nickerson, of course, is still here and she writes for the Cape Codder every week. Her name is at the top. No-- I'm wrong there. Mrs. Arthur Nickerson writes for the Oracle, and her name is at the top. And I got into difficulties with the Oracle, because I wrote the Oracle a letter and told them that the Cape Codder, who Mrs. Moore writes for, has interesting little tidbits other than local news, and I says, why can't the Oracle have the same thing?

Well, I quit writing letters to the Oracle until about a month ago, when they had something in it that I was interested in, and I wrote them a letter. And now this week or next week they'll have another letter of mine in about Route 6, which I've been writing letters about for twenty years now and haven't gotten any place.

But Captain Sparrow--

Q: He was one of the founders, along with you?

Jewell: Yes. He was a sea captain, and they built this lovely home.

It's just a little ways down beyond the Post Office and what have you, on the left hand side of the road. I must go in and see her. Mrs. Sparrow was an Englishwoman. She comes to the house every so often and brings us an English magazine.

Q: What was he like?

Jewell: Oh, he was quite a fellow, the Captain was. He used to go around with me to collect books and other things for some of the book sales. But one day-- let's see how that worked out. I wanted some trees to be planted in front of the museum, and I found out that somebody in Hyannis might give us some trees. So eventually I had these three or four trees given to us, that are outside of-- just at the edge when you come into the museum.

And the Captain and I planted the trees two or three days before, and we had the first Arbor Day that Eastham had had in fifty years or more. And we had quite a gathering there. We had the Boy Scouts there, and that was quite an occasion. And then, of course, the Captain passed on.

Q: How did you go about raising the money to buy the museum?

Jewell: Well, when we found out-- Ralph Chase carried on the negotiations, for he knew the lady that owned the place. And somebody had camped in there a few times and it was quite a mess when we took it over.

Q: How long had it been empty, do you remember?

Jewell: Oh, whether it was ten, fifteen, twenty years, I'm not

sure. Quite a long time. And he carried on the negotiations with the lady. I think the price was eight thousand dollars, and he and Captain Sparrow and Bernard Collins advanced the money and paid for the thing, and we didn't have to pay them any interest or anything. Then with these lectures and things we got-- and I've got two or three of the cards in here, where Captain Sparrow-- or not the Captain. See, I get mixed up. He's off the Cape now. You see, I forget things.

Q: It wasn't Penniman?

Jewell: No, no.

Q: You want to look it up?

Jewell: I've got some of the cards here, pasted in here some place. There it is. "The Eastham Historical Society presents Eastham past and present. An illustrated lecture by Colonel Eugene S. Clark, Jr. at the Town Hall. Children under 12, fifty cents." That's the way we raised money. And then the book sales brought in money, and we eventually paid our money back.

And then there's another interesting thing in here. This thing happened to be signed by Maurice Wiley, who was Chairman of our Selectmen then, and he was quite a fellow. And some place in here he wrote me a letter. I have to hunt. "Jewell's Historical Society, Eastham". The postmark, I can't quite read the postmark. That's another thing that provokes me. The postmark's aren't clear, so that the date stands out.

Now I've just been going through I don't know how many hundred Christmas cards we've received in 1964, '65, '66. I used to have a printing press in my hobby room. I still have a hand-press there that I can print my letterheads and do those things, but when the company told me that I was coming up here and I had the place, well, they said, bring your printing press with you and still do some of the foreign things that have to be printed in foreign languages. Do them for us and that'll keep our contact with the company. So I used to print all sorts of things. I used to print the Eastham Historical Society Newsletter. I got those out for a number of years. I used to write those, and then I had-- this was Notice of the Annual Meeting; the first Annual Meeting was in 1964. Some of them I signed and some of them I had Kenny Collins sign, for he was the president then.

I had-- I don't know what this was under here. This was another Nominating Committee. "President Kenelm Collins has appointed a Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of Ralph Chase, who will announce the proposed slate of officers for the year '64-'65." But as I say, I've got five of these albums just full of all the stuff about the Society, until I kind of petered out.

Q: Tell us about Kenny Collins? What kind of guy is he? He was the first president, you said?

Jewell: Yes, he was the first president. He was active in things from the start. Now, of course, Bernard Collins is his father, who is now in a nursing home in Hyannis, with both legs upset or put

back on or something or other. His mother's a friend of mine, and she was Otto Nickerson's sister.

Q: Abby?

Jewell: Abby. And Abby's called me two or three times of late, because-- well, the first time I came to town to stay, I wasn't allowed to vote, because I hadn't been here long enough. So I went to the Town Meeting and said that the road around our corner-- it was called the Old Something or Other-- and I says, that don't make sense. I says, the Salt Pond's down there. I says, let's change the name to Salt Pond Road. At the next Town Meeting they voted to change the name to Salt Pond Road.

Then, two or three years later, Miss Smart, who lived up at the corner, opposite the light at the Visitors Center-- and another family's going to move in there this spring, they've bought the place, nice family-- she was a most unusual lady. Her father was an Englishman. He came over here, oh, whether it was with the Lighthouse or something or other. And she got to be a teacher and we got acquainted with her, and she liked ice cream, and we had her for lunch on occasions and took her places. But she was one of the most contrary women I ever met. She's still in a nursing home or some place on the Cape.

And she didn't like my Salt Pond Road. She thought Locust Road should come through, which made sense. So Locust Road comes through to the highway now, and it's Salt Pond Road from my corner up to the light. Well, we severed connections then and that took care

of that situation.

Q: Let's talk about the Town Meetings you've attended. Were there some pretty exciting moments that you took part in?

Jewell: Well, no, I tried to-- I went to Town Meetings as long as they were held in the Town Hall. Now they're off up in the country some place by the Nauset Regional High School, which you have to hunt for at night.

Anyway, the fellow that-- the outstanding man there was-- I just told you, see, I can't remember these things.

Q: Wiley?

Jewell: No, no. His wife writes for the Cape Codder.

Q: Moore? Maurice?

Jewell: Maurice Moore. Oh, he didn't miss a thing. He didn't miss a meeting. He's still active. Well, he's been going on all these years.

But there was a reasonable turnout and I don't remember any great excitement. Now and then maybe there was something that was controversial or something like that. I think now there's more controversy about some things. I'd like to see Angelo's come up here and I think I said so in a couple of letters in the paper in the past. X But then there's the question of how the zoning is to be rearranged or what have you.

Q: They seem to be working on that.

Jewell: Of course, I can understand that Brown down this way and the folks on Brackett Road that have the stores wouldn't like a supermarket to come in here. But Wellfleet had the supermarket, and I don't know whether the new people are in there or not. We're hopeful that the ones will be in Orleans within another month or two. They keep talking about that all the time. Then Angelo's talked about the possibility of locating in Orleans, but we haven't heard anything about that.

But then I'm not interested in things too much now. I stay home and write a letter now and then and tend to my own knittin' and that's that.

Now, Mr. Moore's sister lives down the road from me. She has a hard time seeing to read. She was a teacher for a long time. She's only-- well, I don't know how many years she's lived here, but she's a very nice person. I promised to go down and see her. I'll have to do that the next few days.

And then, of course, Eastham has changed with the new road. I get lost going around Eastham sometimes, between the new roads. And you used to know all the names of the people in town, and that has all changed. Everything has changed.

Q: Tell me, you said before that you wrote letters to the editor a lot about Route 6. What stand are you taking? What is the situation?

Jewell: Well, now the thing that burns me up, we've been talking about this road, as I said, in the last letter, for these fifteen years or more. Now they're letting somebody in Quincy come ahead of us, which is ridiculous and which I commented on in this next

letter too.

Q: The Selectmen seem to have done about all they can, I think, to write to the politicians.

Jewell: Well, they've done as much as they can, I think, and that takes care of that. I keep talking about the lady Selectman. She's the first lady Selectman we've had in town and she's done a good job.

Q: She's also the first Democrat, isn't she?

Jewell: Well, I guess she's a Democrat. We've disagreed on that sometimes, for I've been a Republican all these years. Although I write to Senator Kennedy. I had a nice letter from Jack Aylmer the other day, who's just been made the head of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. I had a letter from-- what's his name-- ?

Q: Studds?

Jewell: No. I've corresponded with Studds ever since he's been in office. I have a stack of letters with Studds, and I corresponded with the man before Studds for fourteen years. He used to practically introduce me at the Town Hall when he came to town. And this new man, this Dukakis, the last letter I had from him, he signed his name "Paul". I don't know whether he couldn't spell his last name or not, but I got a letter and I'm going to write him a letter about a few things.

I have a nice electric typewriter, but this hand-- once in a while I think the exercise keeps me from having arthritis, and I

walk around the block once or twice a day. But the typewriter makes more mistakes than it used to.

(LAUGHTER)

Q: They don't make them like they used to.

Who do you think was probably the best Selectman since you've been here?

Jewell: Well, of course, they've all changed. The town has changed. I suppose, when I look-- oh, Bernard Collins was once a Selectman too, but I suppose, as I look back, I think Maurice Wiley, he stands out in my memory more than anybody else.

Q: What did he do that was important?

Jewell: Oh, he gave all his time. He was practically there day and night and everything else. Now, there's the matter of their pay, their working hours, of Proposition 2-1/2, all these other things enter into the scheme of things.

Then What's-His-Name wanted me to endorse him. He was licked in this last election. His wife's a good friend of mine. I knew the family over the years. They live over here on the ocean side.

Q: Wallace Ruckert?

Jewell: Wallace Ruckert. And I haven't talked to her. The last time I guess I talked to her on the telephone. And this man Zannoni come to the house a couple times, when he first opened his grocery store or his drugstore up here. I don't remember too much about him..

Q: But Maurice Wiley is your favorite?

Jewell: He kind of stands out in my mind, as far as my mind remembers anything.

Q: Do you remember the coming of the Seacoast? Was there much opposition to that here?

Jewell: Oh, you mean the Cape Cod National Seashore?

Q: Yes.

Jewell: Sure, I had letters in the paper favoring it. And the first Superintendent was a good friend of mine. I can't think of his name at the moment. He lives down in South Carolina now. After he left here-- I used to go over to the Coast Guard Station to see him, before they built the new place up here in South Orleans. I used to go to his house in South Wellfleet. I knew his wife very well. He had a son that died, which worked a very hardship on the family. And the daughter I knew. She's down at this place in Virginia. Oh, there's some old-- what do you call it? National Park or something, that has a lot of ancient things in it. She was working there the last-- and then he came to the house two or three times after he left the Cape. He was over in the Middle East for one time after he left here.

Oh, but the local folks didn't want the Seashore.

Q: What was the reason?

Jewell: Well, I guess they didn't want any change, and I just

don't remember. But I remember having a letter or two in the paper. I no doubt could turn up those letters. I have twenty or thirty scrapbooks like this, that are my own things, apart from the museum setup.

Q: Belle Brackett said that she was afraid personally and a lot of other people were too, that her land and property was going to be taken away from her. That might have been one reason?

Jewell: That-- but I get so provoked at Washington. Everything has to do with money or controversy. Those are the two key words and most of it is money. And the Seashore never has enough money to do-- they want to do-- oh, they can't do it this year because-- . Take the Bikeway. I made the first bicycle map of Eastham and sold them in the museum for a nickle apiece, so we didn't give them away. And now the Bikeway has been completed, so it comes up Locust Road, around my corner, and ties in with the one over here.

And then, I got to-- oh dear, the things that have happened. Somebody knew about-- Paul Dudley White--

Q: Oh yes, the heart specialist?

Jewell: --who had to do with bicycles. Some man came down and I took them around, and then they invited me, when they set up the Bikeway up in Truro or Provincetown, I went to that whingding with them. But the Seashore never has the money.

Then, of course, they were supposed to take people's property. Oh, there was a squabble about that. Or people weren't supposed to

build houses after a cut-off date, but I know two or three houses over here that were built after the cut-off date. But that entered in.

Now there's been a certain amount of controversy. First about these here big trucks going up and down the beach, which I take a dim view of and had a letter about it in the paper once. I don't know how that's going to work out. The Seashore hasn't settled that matter yet. And then with the next-- I don't know the present Superintendent. The previous Superintendent, I knew his wife, and then the previous Superintendents I knew and got along with all right. But there's that controversy.

Q: Yes. Let's go back to the museum just briefly. You were the first curator?

Jewell: Yes.

Q: Okay. How did you go about stocking the museum? Where did you get the artifacts? Were they all donated or what?

Jewell: Everything was donated voluntarily or folks told me about it or somebody else had it, and I went and got it. Oh, there are so many things in the museum. Then another thing, Kenny Collins-- there was no upstairs floor and Kenny Collins and I laid the floor upstairs, so that you could go upstairs.

And then, the other little entrance room-- gee, what did we used to have in there, where you had to go through there to go upstairs?

Q: That was where the girls came in and hung their coats?

Jewell: Yes, that's the one the girls came in. There were two separate entrances.

Then I started-- as I say, I was Chairman of the Library until I chucked that job for the Museum job. But I started finishing the downstairs in the Library and I collected the books there.

Now, Sam Bartlett, he was quite active in things. He used to help me with the books. Captain Sparrow went sometimes to help collect booklets. And then somebody in the Seashore, they used to have some kind of a library and I got most of their booklets to sell.

Q: These are the books that Dorcas Gill is storing now?

Jewell: Well, of course, Dorcas Gill now gets books for the book sale. Yes, she collects them.

Q: What books were you talking about? The little books, the histories of the families?

Jewell: No, no. Now, there's another thing that I was wrong on. There used to be a fellow over here that sold books in the summer time, and he had all of those early historical books, about Eastham. Besides Eastham, he had some on the other parts of the Cape, and we had some reprinted and I guess some have been reprinted since then. But they wanted-- I forget how it was. I didn't go to the meeting for some reason or other. And we bought the books or something or other. And I took a dim view of that. I thought that as we sold books, we could pay for them, instead of laying out the money.

And then Howard Quinn tied in with those books. Whether he still does or still has them or has them reprinted or what-- . He's running for Selectman again. No opposition, I understand.

Q: Yes, he's the archivist. [Of the Historical Society]

Jewell: Yes. Well, I guess that's the fifty cent word. (LAUGHTER)

Q: What else can you think of about the museum that we should get on the record? Somebody must have had the idea to set up the little schoolroom, the little part that looks like a schoolroom, with the teacher in it and the mannequins?

Jewell: Well, I forget. I just don't remember. As I say, we had that like the teacher in it. I think Otto Nickerson-- I wouldn't swear to this-- gave us the cradle that's in there with the baby in it. I think Otto gave us. I'm sure he gave us that. And I don't remember who got us the figures. I sometimes-- once in a while I've sent one of my postcards with me in the picture, and I says that I'm the living one. I says, the other ones are dead. And I've pointed that out. (LAUGHTER)

Q: Was this the first Historical Society that Eastham ever had?

Jewell: Oh, sure. Yes. Now, somebody told me that it had been talked about before, but nobody ever got it off the ground. I think he runs the paint store next to the theater in Orleans. Well, there's another family that I've been interested in and liked over the years. There was the Daley family. Mrs. Daley is now married to-- see, this names business-- that runs this paint store. Alfred Mills.

Alfred Mills. He has the paint store next to the theater in Orleans. Mrs. Daley had three daughters. Marcia, Melanie and Mary, I guess. And Marcia I wrote an airmail letter to the other day. She's in Greece, where they've been having all this earthquake and all that art trouble. Melanie-- Melanie was a schoolteacher and she married the fellow that delivers parcels now around for United Parcel. And Mary is married to the Brown of Brownie's Gas Station in Orleans, where I've been a customer ever since Herb Wilcox, who's retired and is a Selectman in Orleans, ran the thing. And I keep in touch with them.

But my other problem-- folks around town recognize me, but I can't recognize them. I have to ask them who the heck they are. And then I come home and tell my wife, but by the time I get home I've forgotten who they are. So that's part of getting eighty-four.

Q: One more thing before we stop. What about storms? Have you lived through quite a few up here? Any shipwrecks or anything like that?

Jewell: I remember, before we came-- I think it was in 1938-- they had really the worst one. And we have a tree that's still leaning like this, that came over in the '38 hurricane. And these big trees around my house, somebody that lived in the house in the past went to Kansas and brought those big trees back around my house. They're the biggest trees around. And I carry a whole lot more insurance than I do, in case one of those trees ever blows over on my house. Then we saw a picture the other day, going through something, where there was a whale on the beach in South Wellfleet.

And then there's been two or three other storms, but apparently not like that '38 one. And outside of two or three windblows-- and once Grace said that she was here when there was quite a storm, but I was overseas some place, so I don't remember that. But you never can tell.

Q: I know it. Did Mr. Moore, was it, have plans for the Outermost House, or did he just build it from scratch, or did he build it according to Henry Beston's plans?

Jewell: Well, I went down there. I was just a simple house. It was moved a couple times I guess as the beach kind of moved. Of course, Harvey Moore was one of these carpenters, he didn't an architect's plans or anything else. He just built a house. And I think, after all, all Henry Beston wanted was a place where he could camp for a while or stay or what have you.

Q: Can you remember anything about him, Henry Beston?

Jewell: Oh, he had quite a background, but I just don't remember. I think the Seashore-- does the Seashore still sell books? Or we may have one of Henry Beston's books.

Q: We've got his books. I just thought you might remember him personally.

Jewell: My memory is most amazing. I can remember some things and I have difficulty with others. But that's about the size of it.

Jewell: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Jewell, and if we think of

any other questions, may we come back to you?

Jewell: Yes, you sure can, if I think of any.

Q: All right, fine.

(END OF TAPE)